

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 297
By Scroggs

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend John T. Williams of
Shelby County upon his meritorious service to
the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary citizens who have given unselfishly of themselves, their time and their talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, Mr. John T. Williams, a dedicated resident of Shelby County for thirty-eight remarkable years, is most assuredly one such estimable citizen deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, John T. Williams truly stands unparalleled in West Tennessee Republican politics; he has been instrumental in molding and shaping the past, present and future of the Tennessee Republican Party; and

WHEREAS, by means of his incomparable endeavors in both public and private life, Mr. Williams has worked successfully to make Tennessee a better place in which to live; and

WHEREAS, born in Bemis and raised in Carroll County, John T. Williams graduated from McLemoresville High School, where he served as president of the student body and was a member of the high school debate team; and

WHEREAS, upon his graduation from high school, John T. attended Lambuth College in Jackson; and

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WHEREAS, on Christmas Day in 1933, John T. married the former Thelma Argo of Trezevant, and they were happily married for sixty wonderful years until her death on February 9, 1994; and

WHEREAS, John T. began working with Thelma's father in the insurance business in Trezevant; and

WHEREAS, while living in Trezevant, John T. discovered a profound love for politics, and he and Thelma became actively involved in the Republican Party; and

WHEREAS, John T. Williams was elected mayor of Trezevant and served with distinction from 1945 to 1947; and

WHEREAS, he also organized the first Boy Scout troop in Trezevant; and

WHEREAS, in 1947, John T. and his family moved to Paris, where he established the Paris Insurance Agency; and

WHEREAS, John T. served the Paris community as the president of the Paris Young Businessman's Club and chairman of the Paris Housing Agency, where he was responsible for the building of Paris' first housing project complex; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, John T. sold the business and moved his family to Jackson, where he managed an insurance agency for the West Tennessee Standard Life Insurance Company; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, John T. Williams was appointed by President Dwight Eisenhower to be a U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Tennessee, a position in which he served with acumen and alacrity until 1960; and

WHEREAS, following his meritorious tenure as a U.S. Marshal, John T. went into the credit life insurance business; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, John T. Williams won the Republican nomination for Congress for the 7th Congressional District; and

WHEREAS, John T. has been an inspiration to many young people interested in entering public service; an ambitious young man named Fred Thompson began his political career as John T.'s campaign manager for Congress; and

WHEREAS, during the course of his exemplary public service, John T. served astutely on the civil service commission for the City of Memphis under former Mayor Wyeth Chandler; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, John T. was a delegate to the Republican National Convention; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his exemplary public service, John T. worked with former Congressman Robin Beard and later as a special field agent under then Congressman Don Sundquist; and

WHEREAS, he currently serves as a part-time field representative for Congressman Ed Bryant, a post from which he will soon retire; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, John T. Williams expresses his robust faith in the Lord through his membership and attendance at the Christ United Methodist Church, where he proudly serves on the board of directors; and

WHEREAS, his countless accomplishments aside, John T. Williams is most appreciative of the love and support he receives from his two sons, John T., Jr. and Dicky, and his wonderful grandchildren, Jennifer and Taylor; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, John T. Williams has selflessly placed the welfare of his community and fellow citizens ahead of personal concerns to the great benefit of all of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, men of his talent and stature do not often walk among us, and John T. Williams should be specially recognized as a sterling representative of the true spirit of the Volunteer State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend John T. Williams upon his meritorious service to the people of Tennessee, and extend to John T. our best wishes for every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.